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IGNORING THE SIGNS

Adventure-seekers continue taking their snowmobiles out, despite avalanche deaths

metroNEWS



A sign warns of a "considerable" avalanche hazard at a parking lot where snowmobilers embark from near Mount Renshaw outside of McBride on Saturday. Five snowmobilers died Friday in a major avalanche east of McBride. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man found shot dead in building

INVESTIGATION

No arrests have been made in first homicide of the year



Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver police are investigating the city's first homicide of 2016 after a man was found shot dead in an apartment building late Saturday night.

The body of Christopher Denis Kwik, 40, was discovered inside a residential building at 2425 Granville St., near Broadway, shortly before 11 p.m. by someone checking in on the apartment.

Kwik didn't live in the building, and Vancouver police spokesman Const. Brian Montague said the motive for the killing isn't clear.

Montague said the victim had one criminal conviction "many years ago" and had recently been charged with possession of drugs for the purposes of trafficking, but Kwik's contact with police was described as minimal.

"He's not really someone who is on our radar when it comes to this type of activity,"



Const. Brian Montague
MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

said Montague. "It's just way too early to determine motive, whether drug activity is the motivation behind this attack."

Kwik had apparently been dead for several hours before anyone noticed and police were called.

No arrests have been made. "We've spoken with a number of residents in the building. It appears as though most didn't hear anything," said Montague. "At least one resident heard something occurring earlier in the night but, unfortunately, no calls were made to police. It does appear he had been deceased for some time in the building."

Anyone with information is asked to call police.

Vancouver police investigated 15 homicides in 2015, just two of which were gun-related.

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NPA calls on city hall for a moratorium on pot shops

POLITICS

Party says city should wait for feds to set up legal structure

Tereza Verenca
For Metro

The Non-Partisan Association (NPA) wants Vision Vancouver to push the pause button on granting development permits to medical-marijuana dispensaries and to wait until the federal government unveils its legal framework on pot.

Coun. Melissa De Genova will be tabling a motion during Tuesday's council meeting, calling for a moratorium on the applications. (Fourteen of the 176 applications have been deemed in compliance with zoning rules and are eligible for a development permit. Once those are approved, the next step is acquiring a business licence.) She also wants the city to close

existing dispensaries.

"I think it's important we make sure that the regulations that will be put forward by the federal government won't in any way contradict what the city is doing," she told Metro. "I see it quite backwards, to come up with our own approach that in a couple of years might need to be changed."

The NPA councillor — who "fully supports" the legalization of cannabis and "the benefits it brings to people suffering from a wide variety of conditions" — said she's also concerned about costs to the taxpayer once the city starts enforcing its new bylaw at the end of April when dispensaries must carry the new business licence.

"It's my understanding that if the other dispensaries that don't make it through, if they choose not to close on their own, then the city will have to move forward with fines and prosecution," she said.

As it stands, dispensaries must be at least 300 metres



Medical marijuana grows at a greenhouse in Metro Vancouver. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

from schools, community centres, neighbourhood houses, youth facilities and other marijuana-related businesses. But the new zoning rules are "inherently flawed," according to De Genova, in that they force the closure of some well-regarded, long-standing, non-profit compassion clubs that don't meet the bylaw's requirements.

"The city also doesn't allow for edible marijuana products to be sold, even though the Supreme Court ruled last

BYELECTION

Parties field-test tactics

Two British Columbia byelections to fill vacant Metro Vancouver seats are being fought against a much larger political backdrop than who wins or loses.

Premier Christy Clark's Liberals, the New Democrats and the Greens are knocking on doors and waving signs to court votes and field-testing tactics and attitudes in advance of the provincial election 16 months away.

The byelections Tuesday in Vancouver-Mount Pleasant and Coquitlam-Burke Mountain won't change the balance of power in the legislature, currently at 48 Liberals, 33 New Democrats, two Independents and two vacancies, but they start a countdown to the May 2017 election.

A political analyst said Clark's Liberals have jumped on the idea of the sharing economy in an effort to deflect unfulfilled election promises of a liquefied natural gas bonanza.

University of Victoria public policy expert Michael Prince said John Horgan's New Democrats are determined not to repeat the disastrous results of two recent NDP campaigns. The Green Party, with one elected member, is presenting itself as the alternative to B.C.'s traditionally polarized left-right political divide, he said.

"The 2017 election is on," said Prince. "The Liberals are trying to figure out a way of having an economic development story line that isn't simply just gas, gas, gas," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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-Joan



A helicopter flies past a snow-capped mountain top near McBride on Saturday. Five snowmobilers died Friday in a major avalanche in the Renshaw area east of McBride. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Risk-takers undeterred by avalanche tragedy

NATURAL DISASTER

Sledders sad, but ready to go back to area

The day after a colossal avalanche killed five snowmobilers in eastern B.C., Thea Pelletier climbed aboard her machine and returned to the backcountry wilderness.

She unfastened a yellow plastic lily from her backpack and planted the flower in pristine snow to pay her respects.

"I had a moment. It was in-

tense. It was bigger than thou," Pelletier said. "You feel the insignificance of what you are when you're up against mountains like this."

The B.C. Coroners Service revealed over the weekend the identities of the five Alberta men who died during a recreational outing on Mount Renshaw, near the small community of McBride, B.C.

They were: Vincent Loewen, 52, of Vegreville; Tony Greenwood, 41, of Grand Prairie County; Ricky Robinson, 55, of Spruce Grove; Todd Chisholm, 47, of St. Albert; and John Garley, 49, of

Stony Plain.

The Coroner's office issued a news release that it concluded its investigation of the area as it works to determine the cause of the slide.

RCMP said the snowmobilers were in four separate groups that had converged just before the slide came roaring down.

As the sun set Saturday evening, four trucks with Alberta licence plates and snowmobile trailers were left empty in the darkness at the foot of the Rocky Mountain range.

By early Sunday, groups of snowmobilers prepared to leave

McBride. Two men said they were heading back to retrieve the sled of their friend, who had died.

"He was a very nice guy, a family man," said Leo, who didn't give his last name, of his friend John Garley.

Neil Petryshen, from Saskatoon, said the tragedy wouldn't stop them from going out.

"Why doesn't it stop us? There's different types of brain mentality for sledders," he said, noting they weren't into going up extreme peaks. "But the risk-takers, they want to go there. As you advance, you want to push the limits." THE CANADIAN PRESS

AFFORDABILITY ISSUES

\$2.4M 'knockdown' listed in Point Grey

It's missing a few shingles, the bathroom wall shows some rot and it needs a paint job, but a tiny home in a tony Vancouver neighbourhood has been listed for nearly \$2.4 million — a price experts say sums up the state of the city's housing market.

The new listing by the Kavanagh Group features photographs of the three-bedroom, two-bathroom house built in 1930.

The description posted online Thursday lauds a mid-block home in the Point Grey neighbourhood, with a mountain

view on a cherry-blossom tree-lined street. The lot is about 10 metres wide.

But a veteran real estate agent not connected with the listing called it a "knockdown."

"It's not unusual, that price point, for its lot value. Whether the home was 40 years or 80 years old, doesn't really matter," said Ken Wyder, with Remax Select Properties, who has sold homes in the area for 15 years.

"The house is incidental. It's a small part of the equation."

The listing agents said they

were hired to market and sell the property, and would not be giving interviews.

Housing affordability has been a hot-button issue in Vancouver and the surrounding region in recent years as bidding wars have erupted and property values skyrocketed. The average selling price for a single-

family home on the city's west side is above \$2.5 million, according to recent data from the mayor's office.

The scorching conditions prompted British Columbia

Premier Christy Clark to hint last week her government will also address housing relief for first-time home buyers when it delivers its budget next month.

Wyder said there are still hundreds of similar homes on the city's west side, and about 90 per cent of those are selling for property value alone.

An open house is planned for next Tuesday.

"This property will likely bring in multiple offers over \$2.5 million," said Wyder.

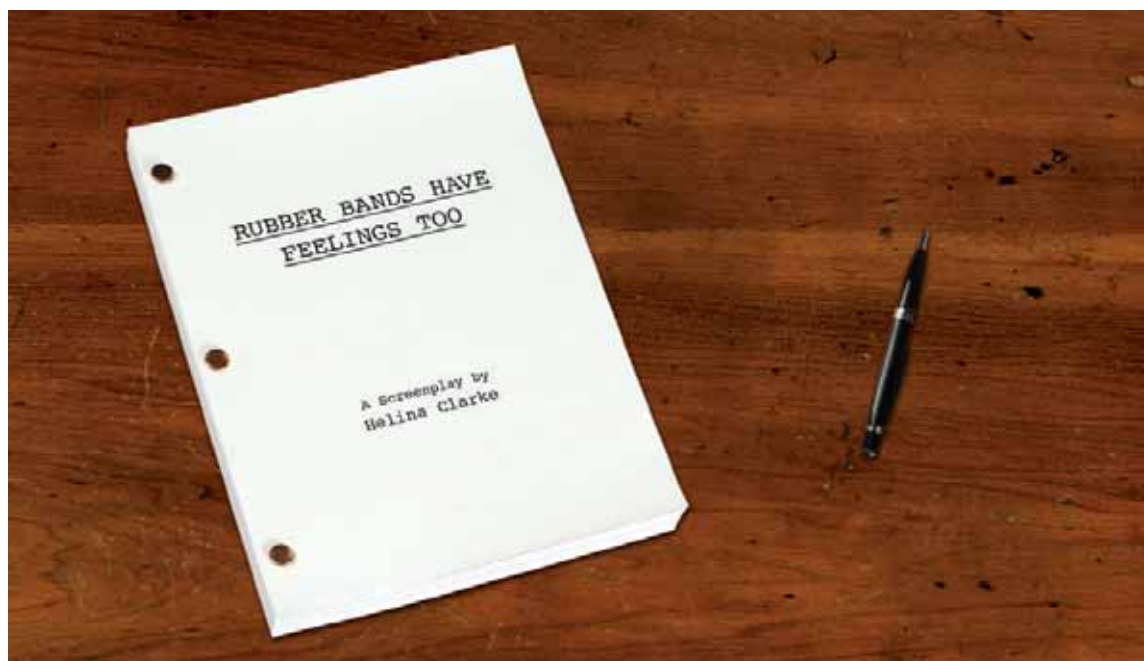
THE CANADIAN PRESS

“The house is incidental. It's a small part of the equation.”

Realtor Ken Wyder



What \$2.4M gets you: an address. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Actress Evangeline Lilly attends the premiere of *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* at Dolby Theatre on Dec. 9, 2014. **Researchers at UBC has put out a new survey dubbed the World Hobbit Project.** KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Meaning in Middle Earth

SURVEY

UBC study finds fantasy cinema 'enriches the imagination'

Tereza Verenca
Metro | Vancouver

It seems Hollywood blockbusters aren't as mindless as one might think and can actually serve a greater purpose beyond providing a couple hours of entertainment.

In a survey called the World Hobbit Project, more than 36,000 moviegoers were asked how they felt about the trilogy. Co-ordinated by UBC's Ernest Mathijs, who heads the school's Centre for Cinema Studies, the study analyzed fantasy cinema and where it's at today. It also compared the data to similar research conducted 10 years ago when the *Lord of the Rings* came out.

"We found the *Lord of the Rings* is very much a highly-admired film and seen as responsible for starting the wave

of respectability for fantasy cinema," Mathijs told Metro. "There was mild disappointment about the quality of *The Hobbit*. People were expecting something like the *Lord of the Rings* and that obviously didn't materialize. But three quarters of our respondents still thought it was a very good film."

But one "remarkable" piece of the data, he added, was that when people in the audience felt a story had enough weight and depth, they found a way to make it speak to their world. Even though it's a genre that talks about things that don't exist, people thought the films had messages about terrorism, racial inequalities and gender differences.

"Humans are meaning-seeking creatures. We're trained to look for significance," the professor said. "If blockbusters allow — through imagery, through particular pieces of dialogue — audiences sort of mould these films into something that means something, like using it as a guide to their own life, using it as a way to bond with friends with family."

"It's almost like it has a therapeutic function. ... It helps them think further and deeper, the way a book does."

Mathijs noted of those who took the questionnaire, which involved 146 scholars from 46 countries, 27,000 said fantasy flicks enrich the imagination.

"We often think Hollywood colonizes the imagination, that it narrows it, that Disney and Warner Brothers monopolize what we can think. Our audiences disagree with that."



Ernest Mathijs. CONTRIBUTED

CHEEKY THE GRIZZLY

Clayton Stoner's dad believes bear never existed

The father of National Hockey League defenceman Clayton Stoner is sharing what he says is the "real story" of a 2013 grizzly bear hunt that led to a \$10,000 fine for his son.

Ken Stoner said in a Facebook post published Thursday that since the news broke almost three years ago, it has been extremely hard on his entire family to listen to "lies" being told.

"I have chosen to go public with the real story about this

bear hunt to put it in the proper light. It is not meant to promote hunting and it is not in support of the anti-hunting groups, it's just 'the truth,'" he said.

"I hope it helps show the public the level that supposedly 'good people' are willing to lower themselves to for their cause, not caring whose reputation they destroy along the way."

The case first gained media attention in fall 2013 when graphic photos were published

of Clayton Stoner holding a severed grizzly bear head.

Environmentalists and First Nations claimed the animal was Cheeky, a beloved tourist attraction in British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest.

On Wednesday, the lawyer for the Anaheim Ducks player pleaded guilty on his behalf to hunting without a licence, prompting a judge to issue a three-year hunting ban and the fine under a provincial statute. The Crown dropped all other

charges. Wildlife advocates had long estimated Cheeky's age to be five years old, but court heard that DNA tests requested by the defence showed the bear was 18 years old.

"I don't believe there ever was a bear named Cheeky," says Ken Stoner.

"I believe once (anti-hunting advocates) found out Clayton played in the NHL they saw it as a way to bring awareness to their cause."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former inmate and prisoner advocate Mo Korchinski, at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology campus in Burnaby in 2015. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Mother-baby unit reopens at jail

ALOUETTE

Program was cancelled after concern for safety of babies

Sidney Cohen
For Metro | Vancouver

For the first time in nearly eight years, a baby is living with its mother at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women, a provincial jail near Vancouver, the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General confirmed on Jan. 18.

A source with close ties to Alouette, who asked to remain anonymous, said the baby took up residence in the jail's mother-baby unit on Dec. 8. Mo Korchinski, a prisoner advocate and support worker who frequently visits inmates at Alouette, also said that a baby arrived at the jail around this time.

The ministry would not disclose when the baby moved into jail, citing "privacy reasons."

"I'm just so happy there's a

baby there," said Korchinski, who reached out to the mother during her pregnancy.

The first-time mother was planning to put her baby up for adoption, but changed her mind when the baby was born, Korchinski said.

The baby is participating in Alouette's "mother-baby program," which allows inmates who give birth while incarcerated to keep their babies with them in jail.

From 2005 until 2008, Alouette housed mothers and their babies in a designated mother-baby unit without incident. In 2008, B.C. Corrections cancelled the program, claiming concerns for the babies' safety. Inmates challenged the closure in court on constitutional grounds, and won. The B.C. Supreme Court held that cancelling the program violated the rights of mothers and babies to be together and ordered the program be reinstated.

The mother-baby program was re-established in June 2014, but not one woman had been permitted to participate until December 2015, and not for lack of pregnant inmates.

A Metro investigation in early December 2015 found that since Alouette's mother-



This undated photograph shows the main room of the Alder unit — Alouette's mother-baby unit — after it was renovated in 2014. COURTESY B.C. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

“It changes an atmosphere of a jail. It's positive too because it gives women more courage to come out and fight for their kids.”
Mo Korchinski

baby program was shut down in 2008, 26 babies had been born to provincially incarcerated women in B.C. Three of

those babies were born after the program was reinstated in June 2014.

Not one of these 26 babies

lived at Alouette with its mother. Fourteen of them were placed in foster care.

Observers have noted the positive impact prison mother-baby programs have on inmates and their children: women are motivated to turn their lives around and babies enjoy the benefits of breastfeeding and bonding with their mothers.

B.C. Children's Advocate Mary Ellen-Turpel Lafond called the first roll-out of Alouette's mother-baby program "excellent," and "very safe."

"It was so important to keep moms and babies together and the evidence was showing very good results with that program," she said in a June interview.

The presence of this baby will be felt across Alouette, said Korchinski.

"It changes an atmosphere of a jail," she said. "It's positive, too, because it gives women more courage to come out and fight for their kids."

At least one other pregnant inmate is doing just that.

As of Jan. 18, another application to Alouette's mother-baby program was "in progress," according to the Ministry of Public Safety.

The B.C. Ministry of Public Safety did not immediately respond to a request for an update on this application's status.

When asked whether the admission of the December baby holds promise for future pregnant inmates, Korchinski hedged.

"The unit's open now, so we'll see."

Heartbroken dog owner urges others to use car pet restraints

SAFETY

Lost beloved Jack Russell to injuries in traffic accident



Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver dog owner is warning others to buckle up their pets when they get behind the wheel after her beloved Jack Russell was recently killed in a car crash.

Elisha McCallum said her dog Radar was sleeping on the front seat of a dog walker's car on Wednesday when they were struck by another vehicle. The sudden impact sent the small dog's body into the air, and she was thrown against the dashboard.

Jack Russell, Detour, in crates that are secured to the vehicle when driving with her dogs, but she doesn't believe the dog walker used pet restraints.

"I'll never know what happened in the vehicle because I wasn't there," she said. "But there was a lot of guilt on my side to understand whether or not I had made the right decision as an owner to make sure my walker understood the importance and value of safety in a vehicle."

As an alternative to pet restraints, many owners choose to place their pets in crates, which are then tethered to the inside of the vehicle, both to keep the animals from distracting the driver and to keep them safe in an emergency.

Although pet restraints are important for keeping animals safe in vehicles, Vancouver veterinarian Kathy Kramer, who looked after Radar, said they aren't widely used.



Nobody expects to get in an accident, but disaster can happen at any moment.

Veterinarian Kathy Kramer

"Radar's neck was instantly broken and she passed away very quickly," an emotional McCallum told Metro. "There was essentially no suffering, which gives me comfort. But with that being said, I firmly do believe that this was a preventable accident."

When the dog walker, who survived the crash and is recovering, called her to tell her about the crash, McCallum said she struggled with a mix of emotions.

McCallum said she always placed Radar and her other

Kramer admitted that even she is guilty of not using a pet restraint for her own 13-year-old dog.

Still, she urged pet owners to do their research and consider investing in a pet restraint with a strong safety record for their dog or cat.

"Nobody expects to get in an accident, but disaster can happen at any moment," said Kramer.

"If you do it for your kids — especially in this town where, for a lot of people, their pets are their kids — if they were



Radar's neck was broken, but her death could have been prevented. ELISHA MCCALLUM/CONTRIBUTED

aware of the consequences, I think they would start using pet restraints more."

A tearful Kramer thanked the firefighters and paramedics that responded to the car

crash and tried to save Radar's life.

"There's nothing they could have done," she said, her voice shaking with emotion. "But the fact that they tried is real-

ly huge."

McCallum said Radar, who had a healthy appetite and was lovingly nicknamed "Pot Roast," competed in dog agility sports and excelled in scent

+ NEED TO KNOW

Pet restraints operate much like seatbelts

Pet restraints are safety harnesses similar to a seatbelt that can be secured around a dog or cat to keep them safe while in a vehicle. They are available in most pet stores and range in price from about \$25 to \$50.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

detection.

"Radar was very quirky and entertaining," McCallum said. "She was a great little dog with a great personality and very much a big part of my husband's and my lives for the last 12-1/2 years."

She said her other dog, Detour, is already missing Radar's presence and searching for his companion, "which is hard to watch."

McCallum urged other pet owners to always use restraints to keep their animals safe to avoid facing the same devastation.

While some dogs might not like to be restrained or placed in a crate, she encouraged people to train their pets using positive reinforcement to be comfortable in that setting.

"You will save yourself and your pets a lot of pain and heartache if you're able to prevent an injury or a death from occurring," she said.

"If something good can come out of this, then I'm a firm believer in sharing experiences so that somebody else doesn't have to have the suffering that we've gone through."

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CHARITY

Food banks worried about rising prices

Canadian food banks hope the pinch they're feeling from rising food prices isn't snowballing into a full-fledged crisis.

While each agency has unique circumstances, many say higher prices during the peak winter period are limiting how much food they can purchase and having an impact on donations while also spurring a greater demand for their services.

200M

The amount of food, in pounds, that the country's 800 food banks distribute every year to more than 850,000 people, according to Food Banks Canada

Fresh produce prices began to surge after Christmas as adverse weather in U.S. growing regions and a weaker Canadian dollar caused the cost of imports to soar. Some food banks shifted what they handed out, turning more to canned and frozen goods. Most tried to access locally grown produce, particularly root vegetables.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Julie Bourbonniere, executive director of Moisson Montreal, the largest food bank in Canada, looks over the dwindling supply of fruit on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bottled water is distributed to residents of Flint, Mich., on Saturday. THE FLINT JOURNAL-MLIVE.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lead in Canadian water pipes, too, experts warn

HEALTH

About 60,000 households have unsafe service lines

Water-toxicity experts estimate that about 10 per cent of Canadians are at risk of being exposed to lead through their drinking water as Americans in Flint, Mich., grapple with an ongoing water scandal.

Research funded by the Canadian Water Network estimates that about 60,000 households in major cities across the coun-

try still have lead service lines connecting the home to the municipal water supply.

Senior researcher Graham Gagnon says each member of those households could find themselves consuming lead.

Gagnon, director for the Centre of Water Resources Studies at Dalhousie University, says lead service lines can also be present in smaller communities and in larger buildings such as schools. Exposure could also come about through buildings using fixtures, faucets or other components containing lead.

But Gagnon and others say Canada's cities have recognized



A resident uses bottled water to wash her three-week-old son at their home in Flint, Mich. THE DETROIT NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the risks and made a concerted effort to decrease the number of lead pipes in their systems in recent years.

Gagnon believes such efforts may protect those cities from the sort of lead poisoning crisis unfolding in Flint, though he adds communities that haven't launched replacement projects are at greater risk.

Bu Lam, manager of municipal programs at the Canadian Water Network, said communities built before 1950 are far more likely to have used lead in either their municipal water mains or the service lines connecting them to local buildings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INTERNET

Tool generates rules for online privacy



Concerned about your kids' online privacy? Want to set out some ground rules for their use of the Internet but not sure what they should be? Canada's privacy watchdog is here to help.

The federal privacy commissioner's office has launched House Rules, a new interactive tool that helps parents manage the growing risks their children face online.

"We want families to consider their online behaviour

and how personal information may be collected, used and disclosed so that children will learn to think twice before sharing any sensitive details," Commissioner Daniel Therrien said in a release.

The tool is simple: You choose the online activity you're concerned about, and it spits out some suggestions for rules to govern your kids' behaviour.

The types of activities include playing games, using social-networking sites, downloading apps, sharing photos and videos as well as online shopping.

Each category has its own potential set of rules

to choose from.

(Although the tool is mainly designed for children, these are useful refreshers for many adults on the Internet, too.)

A few minutes of using the House Rules generates a handy list of dos and don'ts, which can be printed off and hung on the fridge.

There's room to add your own customized rules to the list.

The privacy commissioner's office says the tool is designed for children and preteens. However, it can also be a starting point for discussions with older teenagers about online privacy.

+ SOCIAL MEDIA

On the use of social-networking sites, some suggested rules include:

- We will never write rude or hurtful messages. If we are upset or angry with someone, we will talk to them in person.
- We will remember that things we see on the Internet aren't always true.
- We will always treat people nicely online.

U.S. divided ahead of Iowa

POLITICS

State caucus vote a snapshot of gulf between parties, public

You hear Adam Khan talk about himself and think America maybe isn't so divided after all.

Then you hear him talk about America. Khan, 24, is the son of a Pakistani immigrant father and a white mother. Last year, he was elected chairman of the Republican Party in a key swing county in Nevada. He is a young brown man with Muslim heritage — and a supporter of gay marriage — rising fast in the domain of older white conservatives.

Republican front-runner Donald Trump, Khan said, is threatening to make the party more welcoming to bigots than minorities. His Reno-area community, meanwhile, is more politically polarized than ever.

"The Democrats blame (George W.) Bush for everything. The Republicans blame Obama for everything," he said. "And it just perpetuates the divide."

The voting phase of a rollick-



Campaign volunteers listen as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks during a campaign event on Jan. 31, in Waterloo, Iowa. Sanders continues to seek support for the Democratic nomination prior to the Iowa caucus on Feb. 1. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

ing presidential primary begins on Monday, when Iowa's Republicans and Democrats pack gymnasiums for their party caucuses.

It's not just that Republicans and Democrats disagree on how to solve pressing problems; they disagree on what the problems even are. They have starkly different desires about where to live and how to live.

"All the data that we have suggests that, today, things are much more polarized than they have been at any point at least over the last 80 years," said Jocelyn Kiley, associate director of research for the polling organization Pew Research.

President Barack Obama campaigned as a unifying healer. Over his seven years in office,

the gulf between the parties has grown far wider — both in the way their politicians vote and in the way their supporters feel.

Democrat Hillary Clinton, seeking to fend off a challenge from left-winger Bernie Sanders, has offered an unabashedly liberal platform incompatible with her reputation for cautious centrism. Trump, though not



Adam Khan CONTRIBUTED

an orthodox conservative, has taken the field far to the right on immigration and terrorism; Ted Cruz has done the same on other issues.

Republican voters press their candidates on threats to their safety and to the Constitution. Democratic voters ask theirs about the dangers of climate change and income inequality. Town halls held in the same Iowa counties sound like they are taking place in different countries.

"The divide is great," said Jeff Jorgensen, Republican chairman in Iowa's Pottawattamie County. "It's almost a divide that can't be bridged." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TURKEY

Omar Khadr's sister detained

Zaynab Khadr, the outspoken sister of former Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr, is in custody in Turkey, Torstar News Services has learned.



Zaynab Khadr TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Khadr had moved to Turkey around the time her younger brother Omar was transferred from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Canada in September 2012. She reportedly remarried and had two young children.

She and her mother, Maha El-samnah, came under criticism in Canada for remarks they made for a March 2004 CBC documentary titled Al Qaeda Family.

In 2005, Zaynab Khadr was under investigation for terrorism offences by the RCMP, but was never charged. It is not known if the Canadian-born Khadr is being held in Turkey for a criminal or immigration matter.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SYRIA

Bombings cloud UN peace talks

A triple bombing killed dozens in a predominantly Shiite suburb south of the Syrian capital of Damascus on Sunday even as a UN mediator held his first meeting with members of the main opposition group that seeks progress on humanitarian issues before joining formal talks on ending the five-year civil war.

The attacks were claimed by militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and Syria's delegate to the UN-sponsored peace talks said the violence confirmed the connection between "terrorism" and "some political groups" — a reference to those who oppose President

Bashar Assad.

The blasts went off in the Damascus suburb of Sayda Zeinab, about 600 metres from one of the holiest shrines for Shiite Muslims. Syria's state news agency SANA said the attackers detonated a car bomb at a bus stop and that two suicide bombers then set off more explosives as rescuers rushed to the area.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based opposition group that monitors the

conflict, said at least 63 people were killed.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry appealed to both sides "to seize the opportunity for serious negotiations."

"There is no military solution to this conflict," Kerry said. "Without negotiations, the bloodshed will drag on until ... virtually every home, every form of infrastructure, and every semblance of civilization is destroyed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



There is no military solution to this conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry

TANZANIA

British pilot killed by poachers

Elephant poachers in Tanzania fired on a helicopter on an anti-poaching mission and killed the British pilot, and authorities said Sunday that they have arrested three suspects.

Roger Gower was shot Friday while flying on a joint operation with Tanzanian wildlife authorities who were tracking the poachers, the Friedkin Conservation Fund, which oversees some wildlife areas in Tanzania, said on its website.

"This tragic event again highlights the appalling risk and cost

of protecting Tanzania's wildlife," the Texas-based group said.

Three suspects were arrested, said Jumanne Maghembe, Tanzania's minister for tourism and natural resources. The minister pledged that any other suspects will be arrested in security operations after the attack in Maswa wildlife reserve, near Serengeti National Park.

A co-pilot survived with injuries, Tanzanian authorities said.

Britain's Foreign Office confirmed the death of a Briton in Tanzania and said it was "pro-

viding assistance to the family at this difficult time."

Rangers discovered the carcasses of three elephants that were killed by the same group of poachers that fired on the helicopter, said Paschal Shelutete, spokesman for Tanzania's parks service.

Tanzania has been identified as a key hot spot for elephant poachers. The elephant population declined by 60 per cent to about 40,000 since 2009, according to a census announced last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EX-RADIO HOST BACK IN SPOTLIGHT

Judge may consider 'similar fact' cases as Jian Ghomeshi's trial begins Monday

Crown attorneys prosecuting sexual assault cases often present numerous individual allegations that resemble each other in the hope that a judge will determine they represent "similar fact" evidence.

"Absent evidence of collusion, you start to wonder if they are telling the same story because the accused is doing it," said John Rosen, one of Canada's leading criminal defence lawyers.

Rosen, a criminal lawyer for 46 years, has no involvement in the case but was asked by the Torstar News Service to comment on the process of a criminal trial of this kind.

The trial of Jian Ghomeshi begins Monday at Old City Hall court in Toronto. Three women will testify that he sexually assaulted them (in one case, a charge of choking-overcome resistance has been added) between 2002 and 2003.

Ghomeshi has pleaded not guilty to the charges. Previously, the former Q host has said that all of his sexual activities with women have been entirely "consensual," and in a Facebook post



Jian Ghomeshi makes his way through a mob of media with his lawyer Marie Henein at a Toronto court on Nov. 26, 2014. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

he blamed a jilted lover (who is not part of the proceedings) for spreading lies about him.

In a trial with multiple complainants, Rosen explained that after they have told their stories under oath, the judge may be

asked by the Crown to make a ruling on whether they are "similar fact" cases. If the judge rules they are, Rosen said "that lends corroboration to the complainants."

While an accused does not

have to testify, Rosen said the presentation of three individual cases may tip the scales and encourage Ghomeshi to present his side of the story.

That's because, Rosen explained, the "Supreme Court

of Canada has said that where you have a complainant who comes forward and testifies and there is no countervailing story coming from the defence, then the trial judge has to look at the credibility of the complainant." Rosen said that if there is no testimony from the accused, and "the trial judge accepts the credibility of the complainant, then it's a downward slide to conviction."

In a sexual assault case, particularly one with no additional evidence, Rosen said it often comes down to which side is believed.

"It's an intimate event. Two people, where nobody else is around. Those two really know what happened."

He said that it can sometimes be in the best interest of the accused to testify, particularly if it appears the trial judge is accepting the credibility of the complainants.

That's when a defence lawyer may put the client on the stand.

Even if the accused's evidence just raises a reasonable doubt, the judge must acquit," Rosen said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ TIMELINE

Here are some key dates in Jian Ghomeshi's case.

Oct. 24, 2014:

The CBC announces it has cut ties with Ghomeshi.

Oct. 27, 2014:

The Toronto Star publishes a report detailing allegations from three women who say Ghomeshi was physically violent to them without their consent before or during sexual encounters.

Oct. 31, 2014

Toronto police say they are investigating Ghomeshi after two women come forward with complaints.

Nov. 26, 2014

Five sexual assault-related charges are laid against Ghomeshi.

Oct. 1, 2015

Ghomeshi pleads not guilty to all five charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Our whole society is on trial with Ghomeshi. Finally.

Today, Jian Ghomeshi will sit in a chair where very few alleged sexual abusers find themselves: in court.

Getting him there took an incredible feat.

In Canada, only about 0.5 per cent of sexual assaults result in court proceedings. And only about 0.2 per cent end in convictions (according to calculations made from 2014 and 2013-14 data from Statistics Canada).

In numbers: 633,000 self-reported sexual assaults in a year, compared to 1,357 convictions.

Ghomeshi no doubt has his fame, in part, to blame for his unusual fate. And we, Canadians, can thank his fame for giving us the rare chance to collectively take stock of how terribly we fail victims.

This is a national reckoning.

It is a trial to spotlight how alleged abusers come in all kinds of packages — even handsome and charismatic. It will represent all the women, and some men, who do not report sexual assaults to police, because they know the odds are against them.

It will challenge us to remember that all are innocent until proven guilty. And it will force us to admit, in cases of sexual assault, that ideal, coupled with a perverse bias to believe women somehow “wanted it,” has left hundreds of thousands of victims a year without justice.

If there were an easy fix, we would not need this case quite so desperately.

In the fall of 2014, when support for Ghomeshi was still high and the allegations were all people could talk about, the actor Lucy DeCoutere spoke to media and put her name on the record as an alleged victim, when many were still too afraid.

“It sounds like he broke a country,” she said with incredulity. “That’s crazy.”

It is, and it’s not.

Those same statistics that make Ghomeshi’s trial so exceptional also underline how many untried cases are out there; how many victims living without recourse for what was done to them. Never mind the rest of us, who are all complicit if our justice system does not mete out justice.

It’s not only the low reporting rates (five per cent, compared to one-third for all crimes) and impunity. The rate of all violent crimes has fallen by nearly 30 per cent over the last decade, except sexual assaults. It’s unchanged.

In other words: We’re getting nowhere. Not when it comes to curbing sexual assault, or punishing it.

And so I’m grateful to the women who pressed charges against Ghomeshi, and put both him and our system on trial. Ghomeshi may be the one sitting in the chair, but today, we’re all called to court.

METRO CALL TO ACTION

#PrideTape scores fundraising goal

Hockey fans across the country are showing their true colours. What started as a modest crowdfunding effort at the University of Alberta has grown into a coast-to-coast grassroots push for greater inclusivity in sports. But there’s still more work to be done.

Hockey teams across North America could soon be taping up their sticks with pride after an Edmonton campaign passed its Kickstarter goal.

Pride Tape is an initiative of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta. It aimed to raise \$54,000 to have 10,000 rolls of the rainbow-coloured hockey tape made.

As of Sunday afternoon, more than \$70,000 had been pledged.

Kris Wells, the institute’s director, said the support has been overwhelming.

“That was great to see, and we have really been experiencing momentum for the Kickstarter campaign ever since the Oilers debuted Pride Tape at their skills competition,” he said.

The Edmonton Oilers put the tape on their sticks during their skills competition on

Jan. 24, and the team’s community foundation also gave the campaign \$8,000. Wells said that appearance led to a big surge in interest.

“It just sort of went viral all over North America,” he said, “The Oilers’ leadership has really been pivotal in the success.”

Having surpassed the goal, Wells said the additional funds are going to help get the tape in more hands.

“We’re well over what we initially hoped to raise to produce those first 10,000 rolls, so this extra funding just allows us to increase our support.”

Wells said the tape is meant to be a conversation-starter about LGBTQ issues in hockey and he’s hopeful minor leagues will think about policies or practices that might make people feel more welcome in the sport.

“It has to be more than



CONTRIBUTED

just putting the tape on your stick,” he said.

“Our goal has been to get the product created, to get it out there and distribute, and hopefully get people talking.”

Metro put out a call to readers on Friday encouraging them to have their local teams use Pride Tape, and Wells said that campaign has also led to results.

“We have seen on social media that people are asking their team,” RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Keep the momentum going! We think all of Canada’s pro and amateur hockey teams should get on board with Pride Tape. If you agree, share this story online and post on social media: #PrideTape

If the NDP want to beat Clark, they need cash

CAPITAL IDEA

Kate Webb



Pop quiz! Who is the leader of the B.C. NDP?

Anyone?

(No, not you in the back, reading The Tyee on your Android — you’ve already answered three questions today. I know — you’re very smart).

OK, no one?

The answer is John Horgan, but if that name only rings a faint bell or is complete news to you, you’re not alone.

According to the most recent poll on party leaders’ job performance, 35 per cent of British Columbians either don’t know who Horgan is or don’t know enough to have an opinion on him — compared to just nine per cent who say the same for Premier Christy Clark. The on-

line survey was conducted by Insights West in November and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 per cent.

With an election just 15 months away, some might say that’s a big problem for the NDP. By comparison, during the same point in the run-up to the last provincial election, only 21 per cent of respondents didn’t know or have an opinion on then-leader Adrian Dix.

So why isn’t Horgan’s star rising faster? It’s an odd situation for him to be in, given that he is currently beating Clark’s approval ratings by 10 points among voters who do know who the leaders are, and Clark’s disapproval rating is 62 per cent.

Well, beside the fact that Clark has been the premier for five years — which comes with its own benefits package of never-ending free media coverage — I’d hazard a guess it’s because the NDP

doesn’t have the money to get Horgan’s name out there.

The Libs’ war chest for the 2017 election is pretty darn full. Numbers aren’t out yet for 2015, but in 2014 they raised \$10.4 million and ended the year with \$3.2 million in the bank, according to their annual financial report.

The NDP, on the other hand, raised \$3.5 million in the same year and ended it with nearly \$620,000 in debt.

Election fundraising has never really been a fair fight, given that much of the Liberals’ money comes from big business, while the NDP relies more on unions and individual donations. But a senior NDP strategist told me the party is hoping this year to raise north of \$10 million so it can compete with what it expects to be a vicious and high-budget attack campaign from the B.C. Liberals.

Though that sounds like a lot, it’s not an impossible

feat for the NDP in a pre-election year. The year of the last election, they raised \$12.1 million, and the year before, \$7.4 million.

But in an ideal world, people would not wait until a few months before the election to pay attention to who the candidates are and maybe even write a cheque to the party of their choice. The only hope Horgan has of beating Christy Clark is if his party gets the influx of cash it needs this year to plaster his face on billboards and buses and fill the airwaves with attacks on Christy Clark. He’s going to have to fight fire with fire.

May the best candidate — and not necessarily the best-financed one — win.

Kate Webb is an unapologetic muckraker and political junkie who lives and writes in Vancouver.

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RSP or TFSA? How to choose

NEST EGG

The keys to understanding the popular savings tools

Michelle Williams

Two of the most popular savings tools available to Canadians are the RSP (Retirement Savings Plan) and the TFSA (tax-free savings account). But how do you decide which option is best for you? First of all, it's important to understand the differences between them:

To tax or not to tax

"They're both tax-advantaged savings plans that are endorsed by the federal government, but with some real differences," says Kurt Rosentreter, a senior financial advisor at Manulife Securities and a chartered accountant in Toronto.

The RSP, around since 1957, was once the go-to savings plan for any Canadian looking to save for retirement. How much you can put into your RSP annually is directly related to your earned income: you can contribute up to 18 per cent of your previous year's earned income each year, which gets deducted from your taxable income at tax time. Whatever you don't use gets carried over to the following year.

"So there's room to build



Both RSPs and TFSAs have their advantages. Your choice will depend on your income and financial goals. ISTOCK

significant savings for retirement," says Phil Goldband, partner at G&G Partnership in Toronto.

Though you're taxed when you withdraw your RSP savings, presumably this won't be until you're retired and your income and tax bracket are lower. As such, you're pay-

ing significantly less tax on the money when you take it out than you would have paid when you made the contribution in your higher-income years.

In 2009, the federal government introduced the TFSA.

"There is no tax deduction

for your TFSA contribution like there is with an RSP contribution," explains Goldband, "however, when the money is withdrawn, the income earned comes out tax-free."

Unlike with an RSP, the amount you can contribute to your TFSA is not related to income. Everyone is allowed to

contribute the same amount: up to \$5,500 for 2016.

Making the choice

So how do you choose which of the two plans makes the most sense for your hard-earned savings?

"First, a lot depends on your income," says Rosentreter.

"The Canadian income tax system is progressive — the more you make, the higher percentage of tax you pay. The RSP offers a tax deduction for your contribution amount every year. So the higher your income, the more beneficial it is."

For lower-income earners, the RSP tax deduction isn't worth as much, since you're not paying a high percentage of tax in the first place.

"Those with lower incomes may not be getting the bang for your buck with the RSP, so the TFSA contribution can make more sense," adds Rosentreter.

But it's not just about income level.

"Generally, it makes sense for young investors to put their money into TFSAs versus RSPs," Goldband says, since they can withdraw the money any time they want without being taxed on the income earned.

For expenses like a new car, a home, tuition or a medical emergency, the flexibility of a TFSA comes in handy.

However, both savings tools are designed to serve the same goal: saving for retirement. To that end, the choice doesn't have to be between one and the other. Young and old investors alike would be wise to look at both plans and consider the advantages each one offers.

"If someone has ample cash flow, they may want to consider maximizing both the RSP and TFSA contributions each year," suggests Rosentreter.

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Will Annick and Yolanda's financial goals be met? **Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie** has only 10 weeks left to tackle the women's largest financial burdens and teach them to allocate resources.

Swimming in student debt



LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metromoney

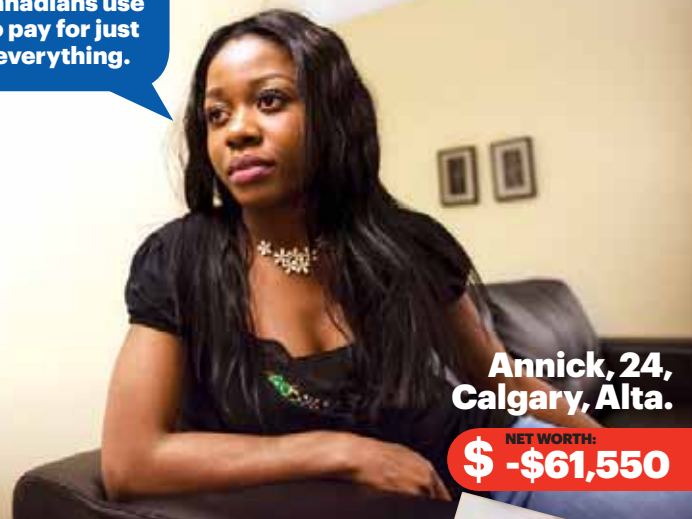
THE CHALLENGE: Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie has 10 weeks left to get Annick, 24, and Yolanda, 27, to change their spending behaviours and build a nest egg while meeting their financial obligations. This week we focus on Annick.

THIS WEEK: Annick immigrated to Canada in 2010, finished her undergraduate degree in Energy Management at the University of Calgary, and now works as a property management administrator making \$35,000 per year. She's on a mission to crush her consumer debt within six months and save a \$25,000 down payment through her RRSP over the next five years.

NEXT WEEK: Yolanda learns there is such a thing as being too frugal! She is depriving herself of the small things in life that would make her happy, and must learn to build herself a "pillow" and stick to a budget so she doesn't binge shop.

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE

Life isn't much better here. Canadians use loans to pay for just about everything.



Annick, 24, Calgary, Alta.

NET WORTH:
\$ -**\$61,550**



As Annick struggles to stay on top of her bills, she also makes a list of her financial goals. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

THE STORY

When Annick arrived to Canada from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), she had high financial hopes. But today she joins thousands of underemployed new graduates in Alberta's tough economy. Compared to the DRC, "Life isn't much better here. Canadians use loans to pay for just about everything. Then they can't afford anything," says Annick.

Weighted down by credit card balances and student loans, Annick recently qualified for repayment assistance through Canada Student Loans, buying her six months of low principle payments of \$150 per month. She took another drastic financial step, applying for rent relief through her landlord. This request would reduce her monthly rent to \$1,200 from \$1,400. She splits this cost with her roommate.

THE LESSON

It's hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel of debt, but Annick's going to use the 60/60/60 plan. Every 60 days she will eliminate another debt, starting with her loans from friends and family because those are loaded with financial and personal anxiety. She'll use money from her second job, \$450 per month, to eliminate those quickly.

She'll then move on to her taxes followed by her credit cards. While implementing the 60/60/60 plan, she'll continue to make regular minimum payments on

\$ MONEY

A surprise

Annick worked extra hours at her second job in December and was paid double her hourly rate of \$17. She applied that 'extra' money to her furniture loan.

Assets

RRSP \$450
Total Assets: \$450

Liabilities

Student Loans \$58,650
VISA \$1,500
Mastercard \$600
Furniture loan from a friend \$250
Loan from sister \$750
Taxes owed \$250

Total Liabilities \$62,000

Net Worth (61,550)

every loan.

A common myth is that Annick can't save money while paying off her debt. But, we've discussed the benefits of using her employer's RRSP matching program. So she's signed up for a personal contribution of \$100 per month and her employer kicks in a \$50 match — free money! When Annick becomes debt free in five years, she'll have a nest egg she can use for a down payment or retirement.

FOOD

Instagram's Chef La Merde named



Mystery chef behind popular parody account revealed as Toronto's Chef Christine Flynn. CONTRIBUTED/INSTAGRAM

Hot rod tartar. Plated Pogos. Deconstructed drumsticks and gas station muffins.

For one year, "Chef Jacques La Merde" sent Instagram foodies into a gleeful tizzy. Elevating snacks from pedestrian munchies to fine art one beautifully plated dish at a time, he became known for his cheeky posts, penchant for foodie terms, over-sharing about his love life and incredible plating skills.

But who was he?

On Thursday, all was revealed. Chef Jacques La Merde — not a he but a she — is Toronto's very own: Christine Flynn, the execu-

tive chef for iQ Food Co.

"I thought it would be funny. That's all," writes Flynn in the Bon Appétit article admitting she's the force behind the account. "No deeper meaning, no hidden agendas other than making people laugh and carving out a small spot on the Internet where I could just be a giant goofball."

She writes that the account brought together her three great loves: food, art and irony.

Flynn describes the account as a side project — one with 100,000 followers — "where a bumbling, slightly hysterical chef makes 'fine-dining' food with low-brow ingredients and lovingly points out some of the more ridiculous norms of current dining trends."

But La Merde goes deeper too.

Flynn writes about a time two years ago when she felt off balance, left questioning her role in the industry after she switching jobs and moving from Nantucket to Toronto. "After months of feeling lost, creating the account, creating Jacques, made me feel like I'd got my *soigné* back," she writes. "Shooting the photos... was almost cathartic."

Fans felt something too.

"Fans seemed to admire Jacques's cluelessness and blatant disregard for culinary convention. He defied the norm, and was endlessly and enthusiastically optimistic," she writes, noting that she conversed with curious Instagrammers via direct messages, sending them career tips and restaurant recommendations.



Do you remember how hilarious it was as a kid to put Bugles on your fingers and chase your brother around?

Christine Flynn

Flynn doesn't call La Merde her alter ego, but more of a reflection of herself. They're both "loud, flawed, clumsy, romantically disastrous and a bit sloppy," she admits.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Have money for fast food? Then you have money to save



If you need help becoming a saver, start by making small changes: Every time you hit the drive-through for a burger, drop a dollar into a can you keep in the car. iSTOCK

STASH YOUR CASH

To truly save, put away more than the debt you take on

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada



One of the questions I often get from people who have watched my show is, "Are those people for real?" quickly followed by, "Don't they know they have to save something?"

Yes, the people on my show are very real; I took great pains to keep the "reality" in reality TV. And, no, people don't really think they have to save. Some think government benefits will be enough. (That may be true if you're comfortable living on about \$18,000 a year.) Others say they just can't find the money to save.

Life is expensive. I know. But saving is important. Thirty or so years ago we knew that and we saved as much as 18 per cent of our income. Since then our savings rates have plummeted. Now, on average, we're saving about five per cent of our money. But that's an average; some of us are saving nothing at all.

ing at all.

And then there are the folks who think that as long as they're stashing money away in RRSPs, TFSA or CSBs, they're doing fine. Never mind that the balances on their overdrafts, lines of credit or credit cards keep going up, they've got an automatic savings plan in place so they're okie dokie.

What they are is delusional. To be saving, you must be net positive, meaning that you must be putting away more money than you're taking on in debt. If this year you sock away \$10,000 in a TFSA but you rack up \$6,000 on your line of credit, \$3,500 on credit cards and \$500 in overdraft, you've saved absolutely nothing.

Saving is the act of taking money out of your cash flow and putting it away a date to be named later. Putting \$50 a month away in savings and spending \$50 on credit that you're not paying off in full when the bill comes in is not saving. You're pretending to save.

You know the story of the

grasshopper and the ant. Grasshoppers don't plan; ants do. Grasshoppers love their toys; ants love their freedom of choice. Grasshoppers compare themselves to others; ants measure how close they are to reaching their goals. So, are you a grasshopper or are you an ant?

If you answer "grasshopper" all is not lost. Just because you're not an ant doesn't mean you'll never be a saver. You're just going to have to try harder to overcome your natural tendency to have a great time and not think about tomorrow.

If you want to become a saver, focus on making small, manageable changes that will stick. Don't give up coffee completely. Just decide that you're going to trim back your coffee habit by 30 per cent a week and send all the money you're not spending on your caffeine habit to a high interest savings account. Hey, if you can find the money for takeout coffee, you can find the money to save too.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

18%

Thirty or so years ago we saved as much as 18 per cent of our income. Now, on average, we're saving about five per cent of our money.

APPS FOR LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

In addition to being useful when traveling, learning a foreign language has been associated in several studies with helping boost cognitive function and delay the onset of dementia. Mobile apps can be a great solution because they're portable, convenient and relatively low cost. Here's a look at three great mobile apps for learning a foreign language. AFP

Babbel

With 13 languages available, Babbel offers a comprehensive learning system. It has functions to help learners improve their pronunciation and build vocabulary quickly through fun lessons. The app is free to download but language courses are by subscription for one to 12 months, priced from \$9.99 to \$59.99.

Duolingo

This entirely free app can help total beginners and more advanced learners get to grips with 26 languages, including unusual choices such as Klingon. Users can choose to specialize in a specific field (business, medical, etc.). It's even possible to compete with friends also signed up to the platform.

Busuu

Busuu offers an original way to brush up on 12 languages. The platform is like a social network. Users can follow interactive lessons and connect with native speakers all over the world to practice their skills. Access is subscription-based, with prices ranging from \$9.99 for one month to \$64.99 for 12 months.



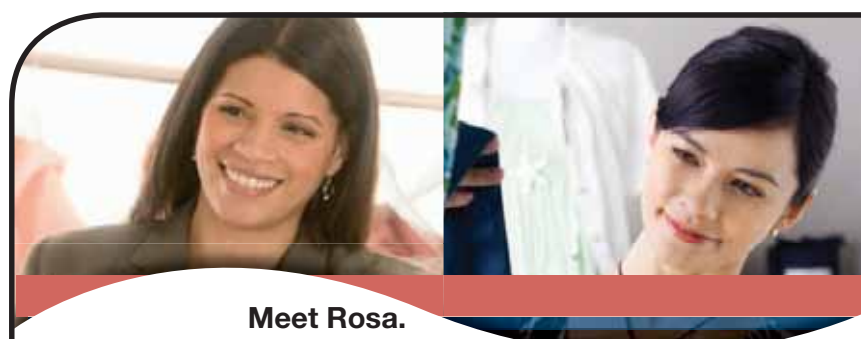
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Meet Rosa.

Rosa is one of our associates. She's friendly to all of our customers, supports the efforts of all her team members, and moves through her day with integrity and respect.

She's fantastic in just about every way.

Except for one thing: she is much too infatuated with opera music.

This is Rosa. **She is one of us.**

Meet Zoe.

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The same can't be said for her attempts to host our annual year-end party. As much as we love Zoe, no one should be subjected to five hours of Yahtzee.

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Portia Doubleday, left, and Rami Malek star in *Mr. Robot*. CONTRIBUTED

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

A less chilly *Mr. Robot*

THE SHOW: *Mr. Robot*, Season 1, Episode 7 (Shomi)

THE MOMENT: The Shrug

Security expert Angela (Portia Doubleday) is seated in the tasteful study of corporate honcho Terry (Bruce Altman), making a deal: she'll fix his legal woes, if he describes what happened in a boardroom 20 years ago when he and other executives decided to ignore the treatment of hazardous waste in her township. He complies, nonchalantly.

"So you were drunk, eating shrimp cocktail, and it was raining when you decided my mother would die?" she asks. He looks at the ground.

"Did any of it ever give you, or anyone, pause?" she asks.

"Yeah. Sure," he replies. "But then you go home, and you have dinner. And you wake up the next morning." He shrugs.

That shrug, with all it implies, is the first moment of this series that made me feel real emotion. Oh, it's a fascinating show — brainy, original, well-made. But baby, it's chilly.

It revolves around the interior monologues of Elliot (Rami Malek, excellent, both vulnerable and scary), a brilliant hacker with social anxiety disorder, who disdains people for not seeing what he sees: that we've signed our lives away to sneering corpor-

ate overlords. He plots with Mr. Robot (Christian Slater), an anarchist, to bring the system down. (Again with the villainous super-rich! They're everywhere!)

Interior monologues are supposed to pull a listener in — give us insights, make us empathic. Elliot's are clever and full of truths. But because they're more about shadowy conspiracies than about illuminating Elliot's soul, they keep me at a distance. I admire them. But I don't feel them.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

BEREAVEMENT

Grieving Céline back in Vegas

Just weeks after Céline Dion lost her husband René Angélil and older brother Daniel to cancer, the pop superstar will soon return to work.

A celebration of Angélil's life is slated to take place in Las Vegas on Wednesday, and after having little time to mourn privately, Dion is scheduled to resume her residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace on Feb. 23.

Angélil had been battling a recurrence of throat cancer, which he was first diagnosed with in 1998. He had three sons with Dion, who took a year-long hiatus to care for him before he died.

But even for those like Dion who know the loss of their spouse is imminent, the ex-



Céline Dion. GETTY IMAGES

perience isn't any less painful when their partner dies — an experience Carole Brody Fleet knows all too well.

In 1998, she had just left the legal profession to embark on a new career while enjoying a "normal life" with her police officer husband and their nine-year-old daughter.

Any sense of normalcy was shattered when Brody Fleet's husband was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. He died just two years later. Four months after Mike's death, her dad passed away.

"People say things like: 'You knew it was coming ... But there's no way to be prepared for death,'" said Brody Fleet, an author and grief recovery expert.

Brody Fleet said work can be therapeutic for the bereaved. But she also hopes that the singer takes time away from the spotlight to cope with her grief.

"It's incredibly difficult," said Brody Fleet, whose new book *When Bad Things Happen to Good Women* is due out in April. THE CANADIAN PRESS

According to multiple reports, including ESPN, receiver Calvin Johnson has told the Detroit Lions he will retire



HOCKEY

Giants' weekend capped by comeback victory

The Vancouver Giants earned a pair of victories this weekend, including a come-from-behind effort on home ice against the Lethbridge Hurricanes — ranked sixth in the entire CHL — on Saturday.

The Giants surrendered a two-goal deficit, but came back with four unanswered goals to defeat the Hurricanes by a final score of 4-2.

The Giants also defeated the Kamloops Blazers in overtime on the road Friday.

Despite their success over the weekend, the Giants remain out of a playoff spot. They're still last in the WHL Western Conference, six points behind the Spokane Chiefs for the final wild-card spot when Sunday's slate of games got underway.

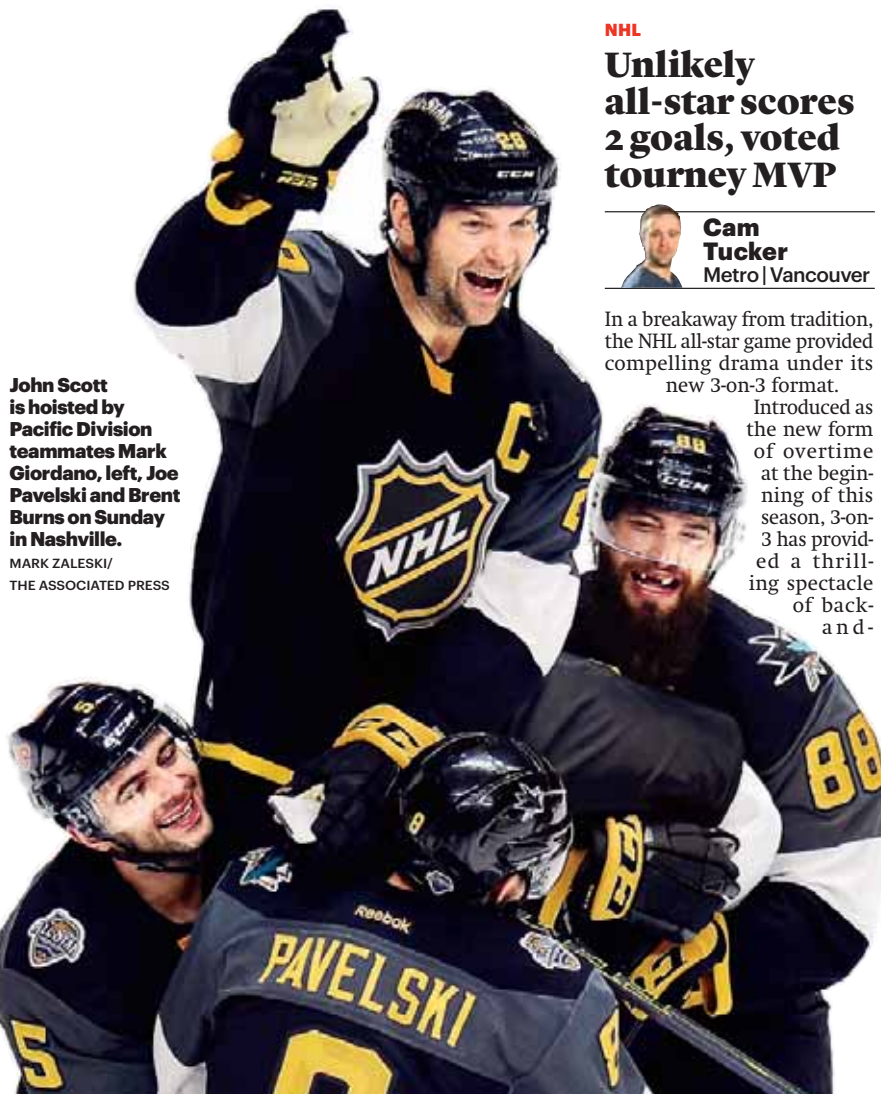
The Giants face Spokane at the Pacific Coliseum on Wednesday. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Bettman to remain commish until 2022

Gary Bettman said his relationship with the union has never been better. Perhaps that's why he is willing to stick around as NHL commissioner into the next decade.

Bettman signed a contract through 2022, he confirmed in an interview Sunday on the NHL Network before the all-star game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scott steals the show



John Scott is hoisted by Pacific Division teammates Mark Giordano, left, Joe Pavelski and Brent Burns on Sunday in Nashville.

MARK ZALESKI/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Unlikely all-star scores 2 goals, voted tourney MVP



Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

In a breakaway from tradition, the NHL all-star game provided compelling drama under its new 3-on-3 format.

Introduced as the new form of overtime at the beginning of this season, 3-on-3 has provided a thrilling spectacle of back-and-forth

hockey capable of leaving players exhausted and fans delirious. The extra space affords the best players even more room on the ice to use their speed, skill and creativity — and often in bursts at a frantic pace.

For years, the all-star game had been talked about as a stale product. The actual game was just an afternoon of shinny for the first 55 minutes or so, before the competitive juices finally kicked in.

That wasn't the case on Sunday.

The 3-on-3 format (20-minute mini games that included a semifinal round and a 20-minute championship) plus \$1 million to the winning team upped the stakes. For the first time in a long while, the all-star game looked competitive.

Team Pacific, which included Daniel Sedin of the Vancouver Canucks, took home the big prize, defeating Team Atlantic in the final ... by a score of 1-0. In an all-star game.

Sedin had three points, two goals and an assist, in Team

Pacific's semifinal victory over Team Central. He also assisted on the winning goal in the finale.

And, of course, John Scott stole the show.

Voted in as the Pacific Division captain despite being known more as an enforcer with only five goals and 11 points in 285 career NHL games, and after a controversial trade from Arizona to Montreal a few weeks prior to this event, Scott scored twice in the semifinal game and was named the write-in winner for most valuable player.

When it was over, his teammates hoisted him up on his shoulders, symbolizing the perfect ending for both Scott and the NHL.

Last week, Scott wrote for the Players' Tribune that after being voted into the game, and with all the talk about him actually attending, someone from the NHL asked him: "Do you think this is something your kids would be proud of?"

Scott's ear-to-ear grin likely provided the answer.

SKILLS COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

● **Hometown favourite** Predators captain Shea Weber won the hardest-shot at 108.1 m.p.h.

● **P.K. Subban** — channeling his inner Jaromir Jagr with a long-flowing wig — won the breakaway event — decided by Twitter fan voting.

● **Red Wings forward Dylan Larkin** won not only the title of fastest skater at this event but set the record for the fastest lap around a full rink. He topped Mike Gartner's time of 13.386 seconds in 1996 — months before Larkin was born.

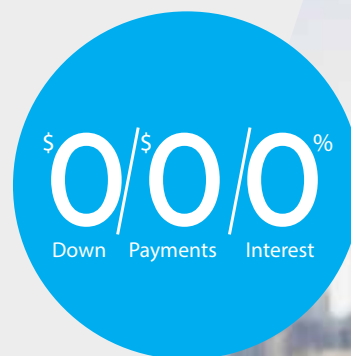
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Djokovic makes it 6-for-6 Down Under

TENNIS

Serb yet again denies Murray glory in Grand Slam final

Novak Djokovic maintained his perfect streak in six Australian Open finals with a 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory Sunday that consigned Andy Murray to a fifth defeat in championship deciders at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic equalled Roy Emerson's long-standing record of six Australian Open titles and increased his career haul to 11 Grand Slam

titles, including four of the last five, to join Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg at No. 5 on the all-time list.

"First of all I need to pay the respect to Andy and his team. Tough match, tough luck tonight," Djokovic said. "You're a great champion, great friend, very committed to this sport. I'm sure in the future you're going to have many opportunities."

Murray became only the second man to lose five finals at one major — Ivan Lendl lost five and won three U.S. Open finals in the 1980s.

The 28-year-old Murray had his share of distractions, leaving his pregnant wife in Britain — their first child is due in February — and his father-in-law being rushed to hospital by ambulance during the tournament.

"It's been a tough few weeks for me away from the court," Murray said, thanking his support team before turning his attention to his wife, Kim.

"You've been a legend the last two weeks. Thank you so much for all your support," Murray said, choking back tears. "I'll be on the next flight home."

Djokovic had won 10 of his previous 11 matches against Murray and was 21-9 in their career meetings — including four finals at the Australian Open. Again, he was just too good. The top-ranked Djokovic broke to take a 2-0 lead and, after he'd hit a perfectly placed drop shot, a fan yelled: "Give him a chance Novak!"

He didn't, racing to a 5-0

lead and serving out the first set in 30 minutes.

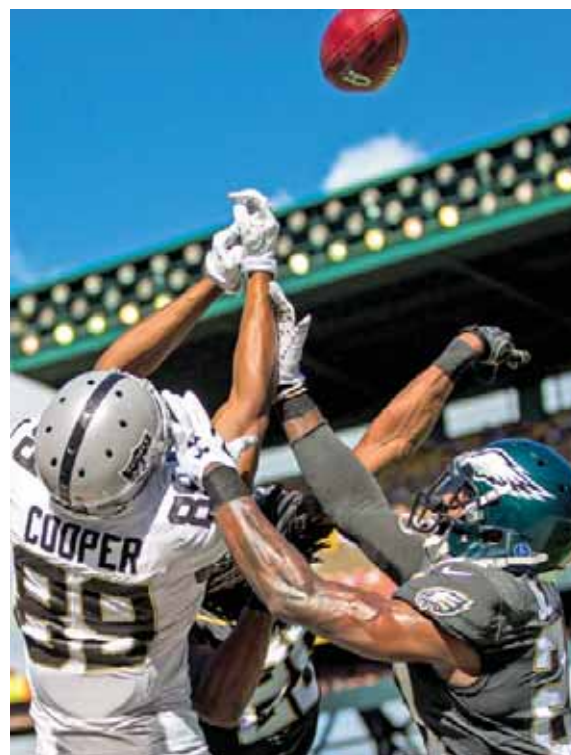
The second set contained long rallies and plenty of tension. Murray was yelling at himself and swiping his racket in anger, and Djokovic waved his racket in frustration as well.

After an exchange of breaks in the seventh and eighth games, Djokovic broke again in the 11th and closed out the set before taking an early break in the third set with a forehand winner around the post. Murray broke back in the sixth game and the set stayed with serve until the tiebreaker, which Djokovic dominated.

He raced to a 6-1 lead, helped by a double-fault from Murray, and clinched on his third match point with an ace.

He dropped to his hands and knees and kissed the court, slapping it with his right hand, and went to the stands to hug Boris Becker, his coach since 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



NFL TEAM IRVIN TAKES DOWN PRO BOWL Team Rice wide receiver Amari Cooper, left, of the Oakland Raiders comes up short on a pass in the end zone against Team Irvin during the first half of the 2016 Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium on January 31, in Hawaii. Team Irvin won the match 49-27.

KENT NISHAMURA/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

N.S. wins women's jr. curling title, Manitoba men on top

Mary Fay's clutch eighth-end draw clinched the women's title for Nova Scotia at the Canadian junior curling championships.

Fay's shot broke open a 5-5 tie as Nova Scotia went on to a 9-5 win over British Columbia's Sarah Daniels in Sunday's final.

In the men's final, Manitoba's Matt Dunstone cruised to an 11-4 win over Northern Ontario's Tanner Horgan. Manitoba came from behind with 3 in the second, a steal of three in the third and another point in the fourth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chelsea ready to move on without captain Terry

Chelsea captain John Terry will leave the Premier League champions at the end of the season after the club he has served since the age of 14 told him it would not be renewing his contract.

The 35-year-old defender, the most successful captain in Chelsea's history, was informed of the decision before last week's 1-0 win over Arsenal. "It's not going to be a fairy-tale ending. I'm not going to retire at Chelsea."

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RECIPE Artichoke, Gruyère and Spinach Savoury Bread Pudding



PHOTO: MAMA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If a frittata and bread pudding had a baby it would be this savoury dish of deliciousness.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 40 minutes

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp butter, divided
- 2 shallots, chopped
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 2 thick slices of crusty country bread cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cups packed chopped spinach
- 1 1/2 cups grated Gruyère
- 14 oz can artichokes hearts, drained and chopped
- 1/4 cup milk
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp fresh chopped basil

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Divide

Tbsp of butter between four 10-oz ramekins. Place them on a baking sheet in the oven on the middle rack. Allow butter to melt. Remove baking sheet from oven and grease the ramekins using the melted butter. Set aside.
2. In a medium skillet, heat 1 Tbsp of the butter. Add the shallots, salt and pepper. Cook until they soften, about 3 minutes.
3. In a large mixing bowl, toss the bread, spinach and cheese. Add the shallots, artichoke hearts, milk and eggs and mix. Sprinkle in the basil.
4. Spoon the mixture into prepared ramekins. Place the baking sheet of ramekins back in the oven and cook until golden brown, about 25 minutes.
5. Remove baking sheet from the oven and allow ramekins to cool for 10 to 15 minutes. Serve in ramekins or run a paring knife around the edges to loosen the pudding and turn out onto plates to serve.

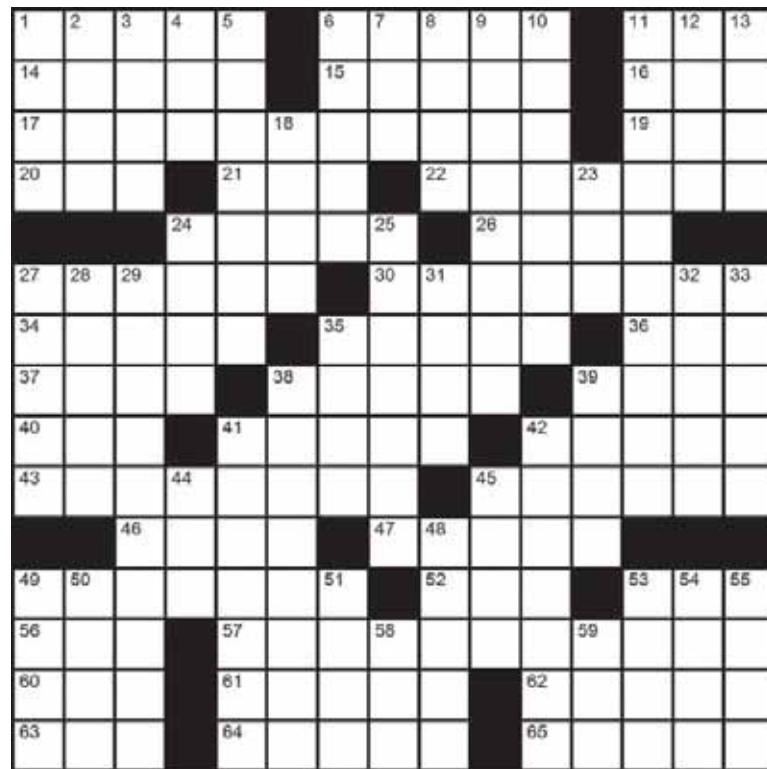
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. The Rockies, for example
6. Invites to one's pent-house suite: 2 wds.
11. Ms. Leoni
14. What the Toonie of Canada is, quite simply: 2 wds.
15. Kitchen appliances company
16. Grampus
17. Hair salon offerings for '90s pop stars: 2 wds.
19. "Ick."
20. __ dollar bill
21. Howdies
22. Ruin
24. Tears For Fears member Mr. Smith, and namesakes
26. Tandoor-baked creation
27. Peace of mind
30. Other word in #29-Down's answer
34. Where Sidney Crosby's sport is played: 2 wds.
35. "American Pie" Chevy-driving spot
36. Status __
37. To, archaically
38. Discovered through the grapevine
39. Roadside border
40. Pecan or almond
41. Covered in thicket/wooded
42. Migratory birds, for example
43. Scatter
45. Repatee
46. Retro toy, __ Bat



47. Henhouse
49. "101 Dalmatians" (1996) villainess
52. AC/DC song
53. Brit. fliers
56. 'Racket' suffix
57. Nova Scotia hometown of hockey star Sidney

- Crosby: 2 wds.
60. Cornwall's country, curly
61. Pointed arch
62. Furious
63. Fifth musical note, variantly
64. To-the-North-Sea river in Germany

65. Birchbark vessel

DOWN

1. River float
2. Land size
3. Lunch hour
4. Soldiers
5. Gush about

6. Possessed, archaically
7. Li'l quantity
8. Remarked
9. Like a story yet to be written
10. The North-west __
11. Losing-lots-of

- blood emergency bandaging
12. Therefore
13. "... Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus
18. Cork's country
23. 19th Greek alphabet letter
24. Irene's "Fame" (1980) role
25. The talking human
27. Circular
28. Yawnsville
29. Team #57-Across plays Center for (First word here ...more at #30-Across)
31. Song in '65's "The Sound of Music": "Climb __ Mountain"
32. Health care professional
33. Solemn
35. Fewer
38. Antique time-keeper
39. Penny
41. Herd member with a sound maker: 2 wds.
42. __ bypass surgery
44. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (2015) character, __ Dameron
45. __ fide
48. Additional
49. Third letters
50. __, Nevada
51. Ms. MacGraw's
53. Horse coat hue
54. Car
55. Costless
58. Dusk
59. Sports or Underwire

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your ability to charm your way into other people's affections will take you far. You'll get your way at home and work by telling what they want to hear. It may not be true but it makes them feel good.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Move fast to get ahead of your rivals. Certain people seem determined to prove that they are the ones most deserving of promotion but they will only succeed if you let them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You've been avoiding a task you think will be unpleasant but if you tackle it today it really won't be so bad. Friends and family will help if you let them know that you need it.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Work-related issues won't be the trial they have been lately. You will make a positive impression on employers and other important people today, simply by being yourself.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Others will go out of their way to do things for you over the next few days, and you must take advantage. Your instincts tell you it won't always be as easy as this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
What you have said or done has only made matters worse. Of course, if you had listened to the advice given to you by a friend earlier on you could have saved yourself a lot of bother.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's not worth trying to control every situation. At some point you will realize it is better to let fate take its chosen course than struggle to steer it in a direction more to your liking.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You'll feel good about yourself today and because of that you will be more open to the world. Wherever you go and whatever you do, stay calm. Minor annoyances are a fact of life.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be fair in your dealings and give others the benefit of the doubt if they stray from the straight and narrow. A new love affair is possible this week, or an existing one will be more fun than it has been.

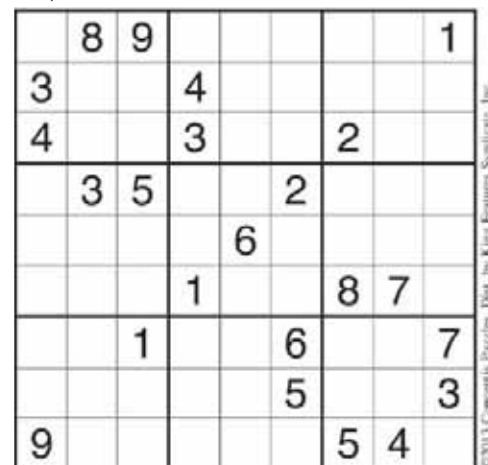
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Not everyone is as logical as you and some people can be remarkably sensitive, so don't criticize too harshly. There's a way to break unpleasant news, a way that calls for a tact and understanding that you must learn.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Get away from the daily grind and recharge your batteries in a more tranquil environment. It's a great time to take a short vacation but if that is not possible at least don't tax yourself with new chores and responsibilities.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
There is a danger that you will create problems that need not exist. The most useful advice anyone can give you now is to stop pushing so hard.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

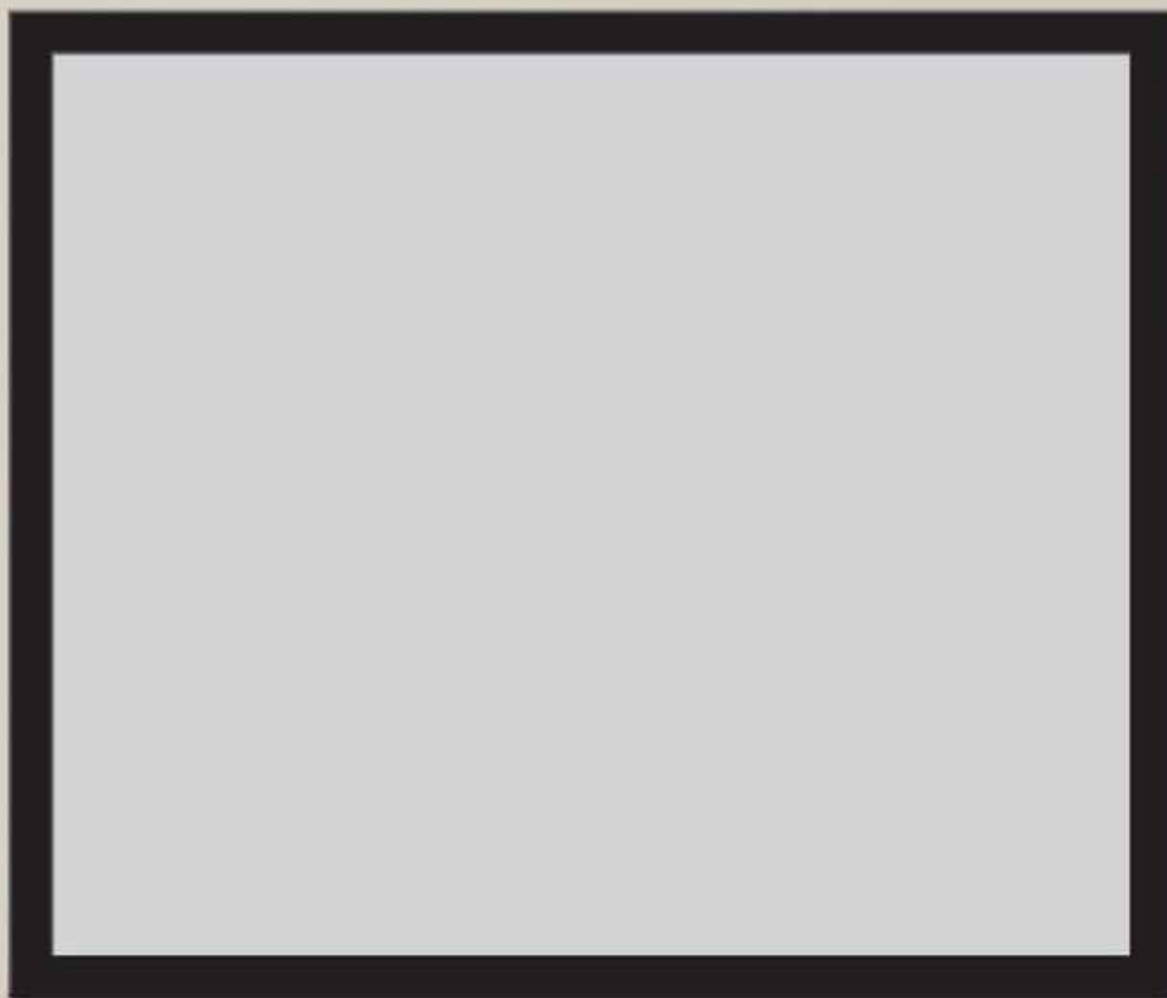


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